

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4477

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2022

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Eliminate Useless Re-  
5 ports Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUNSETS FOR AGENCY REPORTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1125 of title 31, United  
8 States Code, is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
2           section (d);

3           (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-  
4           serting the following:

5           “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6           “(1) BUDGET JUSTIFICATION MATERIALS.—  
7           The term ‘budget justification materials’ has the  
8           meaning given the term in section 3(b)(2) of the  
9           Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency  
10          Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 109–  
11          282).

12          “(2) RECURRING PLAN OR REPORT.—The term  
13          ‘recurring plan or report’ mean any plan or report  
14          submitted to Congress by not less than 1 agency on  
15          a recurring basis—

16                  “(A) in accordance with Federal law; or

17                  “(B) at the direction of a congressional re-  
18          port.

19          “(3) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COM-  
20          MITTEE.—In this section, the term ‘relevant con-  
21          gressional committee’ means a congressional com-  
22          mittee to which a recurring plan or report is re-  
23          quired to be submitted.

24          “(b) AGENCY IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY  
25          REPORTS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency  
2 shall include in the budget justification materials of  
3 the agency—

4           “(A) subject to paragraph (2), a list of  
5 each recurring plan or report submitted by the  
6 agency that the head of the agency determines  
7 to be outdated or duplicative;

8           “(B) with respect to each recurring plan or  
9 report described in subparagraph (A)—

10           “(i) a recommendation on whether to  
11 sunset, modify, consolidate, or reduce the  
12 frequency of the submission of the recur-  
13 ring plan or report;

14           “(ii) a citation to each provision of  
15 law that requires or requests the submis-  
16 sion of the recurring plan or report; and

17           “(iii) a list of the relevant congres-  
18 sional committees for the recurring plan or  
19 report; and

20           “(C) a justification explaining, with respect  
21 to each recommendation described in subpara-  
22 graph (B)(i) relating to a recurring plan or re-  
23 port—

24           “(i) why the head of the agency made  
25 the recommendation, which may include an

1 estimate of the resources expended by the  
2 agency to prepare and submit the recur-  
3 ring plan or report; and

4 “(ii) the understanding of the head of  
5 the agency of the purpose of the recurring  
6 plan or report.

7 “(2) AGENCY CONSULTATION.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In preparing the list  
9 required under paragraph (1)(A), if, in submit-  
10 ting a recurring plan or report, an agency is re-  
11 quired to coordinate or consult with another  
12 agency or entity, the head of the agency sub-  
13 mitting the recurring plan or report shall con-  
14 sult with the head of each agency or entity with  
15 whom consultation or coordination is required.

16 “(B) INCLUSION IN LIST.—If, after a con-  
17 sultation under subparagraph (A), the head of  
18 each agency or entity consulted under that sub-  
19 paragraph agrees that a recurring plan or re-  
20 port is outdated or duplicative, the head of the  
21 agency required to submit the recurring plan or  
22 report shall—

23 “(i) include the recurring plan or re-  
24 port in the list described in paragraph  
25 (1)(A); and

1           “(ii) identify each agency or entity  
2           with which the head of the agency is re-  
3           quired to coordinate or consult in submit-  
4           ting the recurring plan or report.

5           “(C) DISAGREEMENT.—If the head of any  
6           agency or entity consulted under subparagraph  
7           (A) does not agree that a recurring plan or re-  
8           port is outdated or duplicative, the head of the  
9           agency required to submit the recurring plan or  
10          report shall not include the recurring plan or  
11          report in the list described in paragraph (1)(A).

12          “(c) DISPOSITION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—

13           “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a rec-  
14          ommendation on a recurring plan or report included  
15          in budget justification materials by the head of an  
16          agency under subsection (b)(1)(B)(i), the chair and  
17          ranking member of each relevant congressional com-  
18          mittee may—

19           “(A) in coordination with any other rel-  
20          evant congressional committee, as necessary,  
21          agree or disagree with the recommendation or  
22          postpone a decision on the recommendation;  
23          and

1           “(B) notify each agency that submits a  
2           recommendation of the disposition of the rec-  
3           ommendation under subparagraph (A).

4           “(2) LEGISLATIVE STEPS.—If a relevant con-  
5           gressional committee agrees with an agency rec-  
6           ommendation submitted under subsection  
7           (b)(1)(B)(i), the relevant congressional committee  
8           may take the necessary legislative steps to accom-  
9           plish the recommendation, which may include con-  
10          sulting with the agency that submits the recurring  
11          plan or report that is the subject of the rec-  
12          ommendation to prepare appropriate legislation.

13          “(3) AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this  
14          section shall be construed to relieve the head of an  
15          agency from a requirement to submit a recurring  
16          plan or report.”; and

17          (3) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by  
18          striking “the budget of the United States Govern-  
19          ment, as provided by section 1105(a)(37)” and in-  
20          serting “in the budget justification materials of each  
21          agency”.

22          (b) BUDGET CONTENTS.—Section 1105(a) of title  
23          31, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph  
24          (39).

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